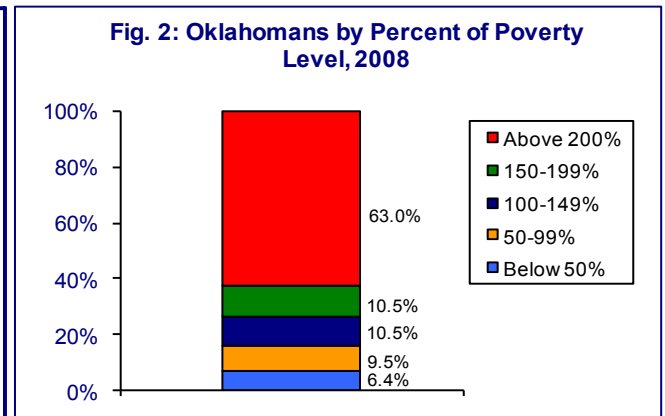
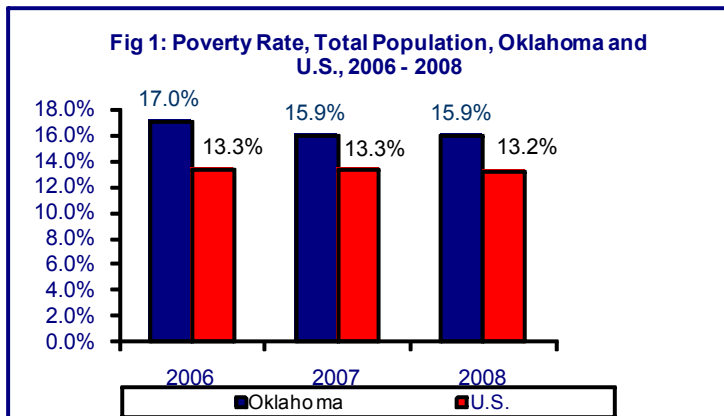


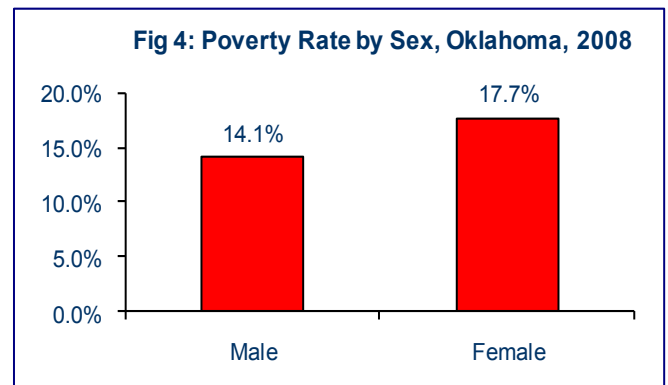
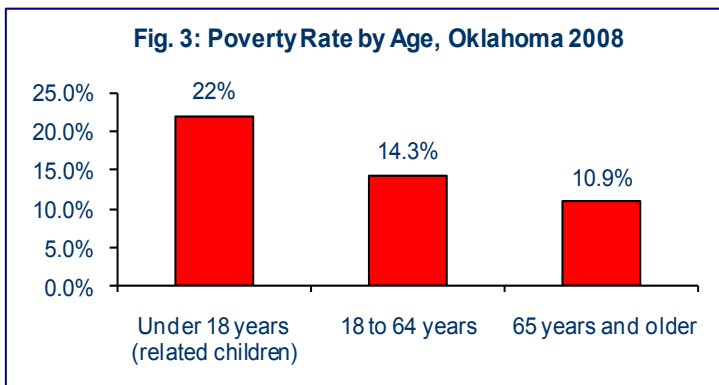
## OKLAHOMA'S POVERTY PROFILE: 2008

On August 3rd, 2009, the US Census Bureau released new state-level data from the American Community Survey on poverty in 2008. The report's major findings included the following:

- Nearly 16 percent of Oklahomans (15.9 percent) lived in poverty in 2008. That is the same rate as in 2007 and a 1.1 percentage point decrease from 2006, but well above the poverty rate of 2000 at the peak of the last economic expansion (13.8 percent). Oklahoma's poverty rate stands 2.7 percentage points higher than the national average (Fig. 1). The poverty level in 2008 was \$22,025 for a family of four.
- The rate of *extreme poverty*— less than half the federal poverty level— is 6.4 percent. In addition to those living below the poverty line, an additional 20.1 percent of Oklahomans earn between 100 percent and 200 percent of poverty (Fig. 2).

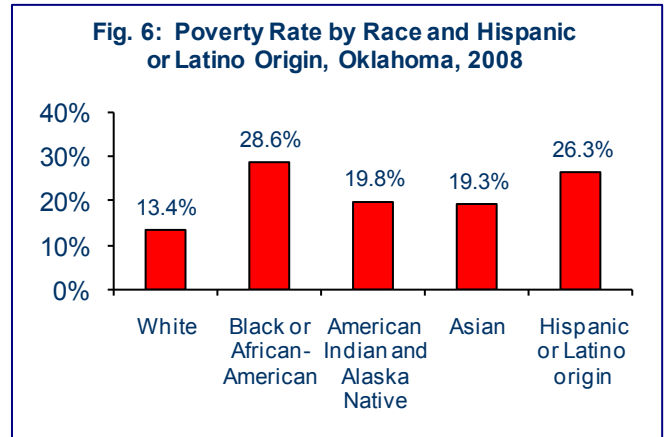
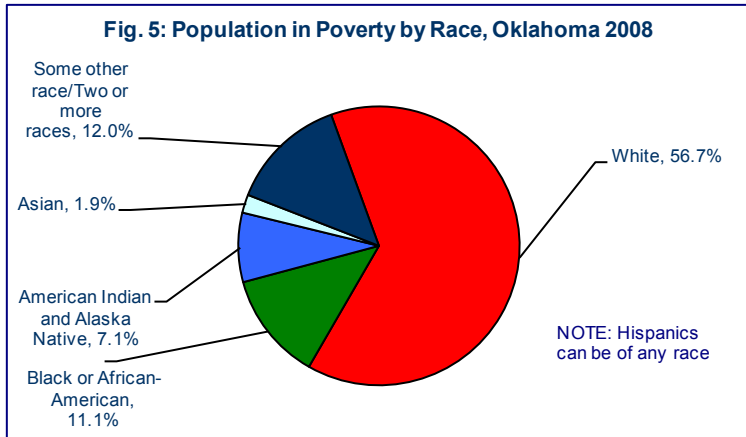


- The poverty rate for children (22 percent) is higher than that of working-age adults (14.3 percent) or seniors (10.9 percent) (Fig. 3).
- The poverty rate for women (17.7 percent) is more than three percentage points higher than the rate for men (14.1 percent) (Fig. 4).

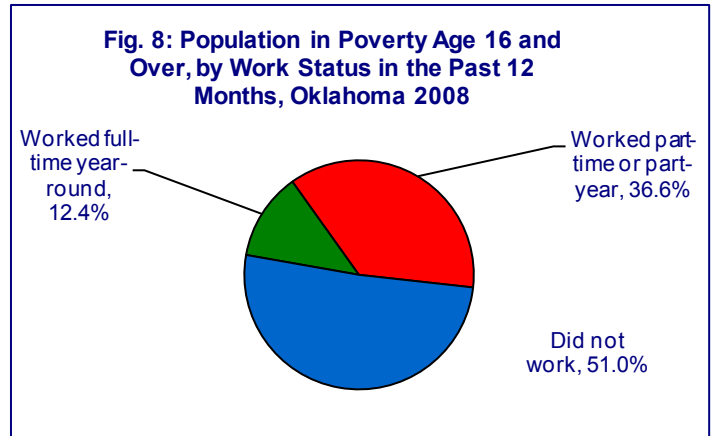
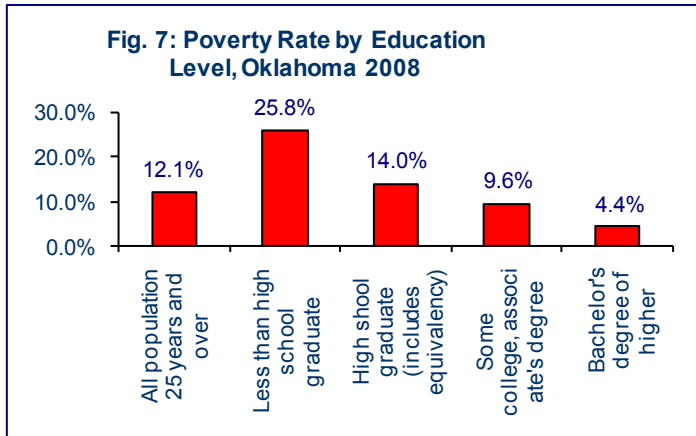


Source: All data from American Community Survey, 2008, U.S. Census Bureau at [www.uscensus.gov](http://www.uscensus.gov)

- A majority (56.7 percent) of Oklahomans in poverty are White (Fig. 5);
- Within Oklahoma, African-Americans (28.6 percent), Hispanics (26.3 percent), and Native Americans (19.8 percent) have the highest rates of poverty (Fig. 6).



- Poverty is closely correlated with education— a college graduate is only one-third as likely to live in poverty as someone with only a high school degree, and one-sixth as likely to be in poverty as someone with less than high school graduation (Fig. 7). One-third of poor Oklahomans over age 25 (32.7 percent) did not graduate high school.
- Among working-age adults living in poverty, slightly less than half worked at least part-time or part-year in 2008. The other half of adults in poverty did not work at all in 2008 (Fig. 8).



- Among Oklahoma families with children, families headed by single mothers are almost five times as likely to be in poverty as families headed by married couples (Figure 9)

